

Industrial Worker

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

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REVOLT HITS TAME UNIONS

The most significant recent development in the British labor movement is the formation of "break-away" industrial unions. Several months ago such a union was set up by Glasgow busmen, the Bus Crews' Association (BCA) and already it has wide support in most Glasgow garages.

Four years ago the first "break-away" was founded, the National Union of Portworkers, and today it has close to four thousand members on the docks of London, Hull,

Liverpool and Manchester.

The largest union affected by break-aways is the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU). The TGWU is a powerful union among dockers, transport workers and warehouse men. It is the darling of the CP and many Left-wing Laborites. Most workers don't share their enthusiasm, and for good reasons.

A month long strike of Bristol dockers was finally won over the

strained cries of the union "leaders" who were demanding that the dockers return to work.

The dispute started over the wages paid for unloading timber. The union had negotiated a rate in the front office but the workers, on hearing of the rate, refused to work and demanded that the negotiators return to the employers and come back with more money. The "leaders" refused and called a meeting of all the workers, expecting to get support — but on hearing the arguments, the workers walked out and struck.

Because union officials unload nothing more than hot air, they can easily be sold a bill of goods by the employers who exaggerate the simplicity of a job. When the dockers tell the officials the truth about the job, the latter are too stubborn in their ignorance to return and demand what the dockers want. In this case the workers had to take the initiative and strike to teach a lesson to the union officials as well as to the employers.

In Glasgow the TGWU leader-

ship has displayed a like arrogance with regards to the busmen's demands. The city is in the hands of the Labor Party and to please their friends in the City Council, the union leaders have resorted to every duplicity to prevent the rank-and-file from embarrassing the party.

These workers have several times walked out unofficially to get their demands, now they are setting up their own union. The Bus Crews' Association, like the NUP, is an industrial union and in all respects it resembles the NUP which has immediate recall of officials, is unaffiliated with any political party and calls for working-class solidarity in every struggle.

With the increasing regimentation which the Labor Party demands from unions in its quest for a stable British economy, the workers have no choice but to defend themselves and bolt their traditional unions. And as the British say, "More power to your arm," Fellow-Workers.

—Bernard Marszlek

Many Points Raised By Transit Strike

The New York City bus and subway workers' strike netted them a wage increase that brings their income up to about the level of other city employes. This was one of their chief demands. They won it with an exhibition of solidarity that carried them through the 12-day stoppage without a rift in the ranks or serious bellyaching by dissidents.

Despite much noisy outside criticism from high and low places, the strikers stood firm. Some criticism came from workers who couldn't get to their jobs on time, or at all, for lack of transportation. (They should have stayed at home, rejoicing in a fine demonstration of labor's power.)

At least one "labor leader," George Swayduck, president of a Lithographers Local, completely lost control of his faculties. He called the strike "sabotage" and promised to sue the Transit union for pay lost by his tradesmen who because of stalled subway and buses couldn't get to their jobs.

George Meaney, kingpin of the AFL-CIO, declared the strike

showed poor labor statesmanship, and he was all for an immediate back-to-work movement. This stand neither added nor detracted from Meaney's reputation. It left him on the same stink list he had been on for a long time, though maybe a little higher on that list.

The new town mayor called the strike illegal and the demands lawless. A court issued an injunction and the plute press proposed calling out the militia.

This last proposal gave added proof that editors of metropolitan newspapers are, by and large, among the least qualified people to look to for advice on public questions.

In the final settlement of this strike of 37,000 transit workers, important items have been or will be overlooked. There was that demand for the 4-day, 32-hour week. It came up two years ago and was forgotten then in the 11th-hour negotiations that produced the contract which expired in January this year.

In the last several years 8,000

(Continued on page 2)



Teachers a-Go-Go; They Grow Union

The American Federation of Teachers pulled a strike at a college. Time marches on. Given time, even white collar workers learn to recognize some essentials of the class struggle.

Teachers gave the drive toward white-collar organization a big lift when they struck and won in New York City despite a state law against strikes by municipal employees. They threatened a strike in Chicago last fall in a demand for recognition, and made their point although for the present the company teacher union, NEA, by court action has prevented collective bargaining.

Teachers are specialists in recognizing that it is actually possible to learn from the mistakes of others without actually repeating those mistakes. (That by the way is how we come to eat mushrooms.) The following editorial comment in the Illinois Union Teacher for December 1965 illustrates the point:

"A teacher organization that looks to the legislature or anyone else to pave the road to collective bargaining is on a suicidal course. The greatest danger to the teachers' union movement is in the tendency of union members to look to the government as a kind of charitable 'big brother' to give them what is really beyond the power of government to give."

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'Great Anguish Among the Poor'

A Mexican visitor to Chicago told newsmen the other day that the invasion of Mexico by U.S. TV commercials was having a devastating effect on our southern neighbor's working people. He said our advertising and programming in Latin America "is a dangerous and disrupting influence," that it is a threat to the moral fiber of the poor.

Alberto Ortega, a business executive interested especially in communication, said that products advertised on television—soap, cigarettes, whisky and washing machines—are far out of reach of the majority of Mexican people. He said the picturing of alluring objects which the viewer cannot hope to obtain is "frustrating and causing great anguish among the poor people."

According to Mr. Ortega, the problem will get worse when TV spreads to rural areas where, as he put it, "the people are 'hot blooded.'" He even suggested that exposure to U.S. films and commercials may cause the rural poor to start "solving their problems with their guns."

It could be there is some good in TV commercials, after all. Hot and wide-spread discontent comes first. Then comes organized demand for the better things of life. In Mexico as elsewhere, ignorance of the poor man is bliss for the rich.

Transit Strike

(Continued from first page)

to 10,000 jobs have been lost to automation on the New York City transportation system. Because of this, these workers have long been aware of the importance of the shorter work-week demand. But pressure for shorter hours to off-set the effect of automation on the number of jobs lacks the weight of immediate need which reinforces every demand for wage increase.

NYC transit slaves are not generally laid off because of automation. As men retire or die, they are simply not replaced. This is a painless job slashing. At least it is not directly felt by the workers who are called upon, as in this instance, to strike against it. This is one reason why the shorter work-week demand has been regarded so lightly in negotiations.

There are some items in Mike Quill's career better left unmentioned at the moment. But when Quill went to jail rather than try to call off the transit strike, saying that "it was time someone

along the line quit being respectable," he spoke the plain truth. And this was his shining hour.

Mike who is president of the Transit Workers union and its most prominent leader, hammered up his role in the strike a good deal, but he spoke his few significant lines to good effect. Workers shouldn't expect more from their leaders.

A union—or a strike—is best directed by its own rank-and-file decisions. So it was that the transit workers' strike was won while eight leaders were in jail and another in the hospital. This is not exactly a formula for winning strikes, but such a situation has its advantages.

This strike of January 1-12, 1966 was an emphatic declaration that labor employed in public service must not submit to near-chattel slave regulations prohibiting strikes, even though these are supported by contracts, "legal" inactions and labor fakers.

Sardonic Jester Goes Political

Saturday, January 15th, some 800 of Chicago's political dissidents gathered in McCormick Place on Chicago's lakefront under the auspices of the Committee for Independent Political Action.

The Plenary Session which began at 9:30 A.M. under the chairmanship of Professor Robert Havighurst of the University of Chicago featured the following speakers: Paul Lauter, American Friends Service Committee Staff Worker, Robert Ross, member of National Students for a Democratic Society, and Sidney Lens, Union organizer.

The burden of their remarks centered around civil rights, jobs and community problems. At 12:15 the session broke up for lunch.

In early afternoon there were workshops, organized along Congressional district lines to discuss community problems, issues around which activity could be aroused, how to build the organization, future action, etc. At the close of the workshop sessions, each district elected two delegates to a Continuation Committee.

To this observer, the most significant discussion was about how to break the stranglehold of the Daley-Dawson Democratic Machine that seems to have a lease on the life of the negro population in Chicago's southside ghettos.

At 4 P.M. the Second Plenary Session was called to order by Dick Gregory who when he is not demonstrating on a picket line or serving time in jail for talking back to some cop is titillating night club audiences with his wit which is bitter, sardonic and downright Dean Swift-ish.

Dick mentioned that the basic

problem of his childhood was "outliving the rat in the living room." He advised the crowd to re-read the Declaration of Independence, especially that section that talks about equality, and to proceed from there.

He assured the crowd that his goals were not those of a capitalist society and reminded them "not to mix human dignity with education." That is, you can have a sense of your own worth and value in a society without having to go to college or pursue a higher education to get it.

At the close of the meeting it was decided to form a permanent organization which would meet frequently on a regular basis to investigate and pinpoint issues in each of the districts represented, construct political strategy and action programs, encourage the active participation of community organizations, unions, churches, student groups, etc.; raise funds, actively support congressional candidates.

In addition, they will try to register negro and "hill-billy" residents who have come up from the south and are not yet on the voting lists.

All the palavering seemed to me a waste of time generally. However, Dick Gregory, it is rumored, aspires to be the first Negro mayor of Chicago and it is possible that this organization can be the shock troop for his political assault on City Hall.

J. S.

Political action has done little or nothing for the predominately white working class of the United States. Is there reason to believe that it will do more for slum-dwelling Negro workers?

Preamble

• **THE WORKING CLASS and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who makeup the employing class, have all the good things of life.**

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of management of the industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

• **IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.**

OFFICIAL NOTICES BRANCH MEETINGS

HOUSTON, Texas. — Robert (Blakie) Vaughan is the acting Secretary of the Houston I.U. 510 branch. All communications intended for the branch should be addressed to him at 7505 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Tex. 77011.

* * *

SAN FRANCISCO — Temporarily, while a location for a new hall is found, all business of the San Francisco branch will be handled by Fellow Worker Tom Condit. For information on branch activities, meetings etc., telephone Tom Condit. His number is DO 2-4377.

* * *

BERKELEY, Calif. — For information about meetings, socials, and other activities contact Robert Rush, Secretary, 1723 10th St., Telephone: 524-1989.

* * *

DULUTH, Minn. — Write to Pat McMillan, Stationary Delegate, P.O. Box 559 for information and contacts.

* * *

CHICAGO branch general membership meetings are now being held on the first Friday of the month at 2422 N. Halsted Street. Tor Faegre, Secretary.

* * *

NEW YORK CITY — The mailing address of the New York City GRU branch is now 539 East 11th Street, Apt. 1-E. The hall remains at 336 East 4th Street, Room 4. — Walter Caughey, Secretary.

* * *

SEATTLE, Wash. — For I.W.W. business in the Seattle area O. N. Peterson, stationary delegate; at Drake Hotel, 523 Fifth Ave.

* * *

YAKIMA, Wash. — For information about work and organization opportunities in the fruit and farm areas of Eastern Washington, get in touch with George C. Underwood, 102 South 3rd Ave., telephone GLencourt 3-2046.

* * *

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — IWW Stationary Delegate, P.O. Box 46583, Los Angeles; or call EX 88110.

Sign of Progress?

Contracts grow longer; though not necessarily better, Walter Dorosh, president of UAW Local 600 — "probably the world's largest local union," stated recently that the union's 1964 contract with Ford contained 350 pages of provisions and conditions. Some workers are thinking the more law they get the less they have of justice.

But Dorosh spoke wisely when he told a meeting of municipal workers to go ahead with organization despite threats from management. "The boss won't grow broke," he added.

SWEDES RIDE BICYCLES. Gasolene will cost 78 cents a gallon in Sweden after new tax hike announced in January.

NO LONGER FREE

As in all our wars, we fight in Viet Nam in the name of democracy, regardless of the fact that war is a complete negation of the democratic process. Even before the first popping of guns is heard, dictatorship begins its sweep across the land.

Great numbers of young men are plucked out of their homes and thrown into training camps, then hustled away to the nearest battle front. They sign away all their democratic rights at the recruiting station and submit to military regulations, the most absolute authority known to man.

With the coming of war, military necessity becomes the order of the day, and people are required to be careful of what they say, lest the enemy be helped in some way by their unguarded words. Speech is no longer free. Civil rights give way to military rights.

In Viet Nam, as in many another oppressed land, our military serfs are expected to impress the people with the virtues of democracy. Alas, it is a precious commodity that is in very modest supply among us, with none to spare for peoples in still greater need of it.

In Congress, social legislation is neglected in the urge for appropriations in furtherance of the war effort.

Government demands of labor that it give up some of its cherished rights, that defense production may be speeded up. Labor, too, is no longer free.

Farmers and manufacturers are told what to produce and how much of it, and THEY are no longer free.

Your country, right or wrong, becomes the patriotic theme of the day. Criticism of the government's policies is dangerously close to treason, as judged by ardent patriots both within and without governmental circles. I say we are all, then, no longer free.

In a sense, every American citizen, in time of war, must hand over his democratic rights to the man who sits in the President's chair at Washington, the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

This powerful man, at his whim, forces upon us his choice of peace or war. Congress has the sole right to declare war, but the President creates the situation that makes war inevitable. No Congress has ever denied a militant President his war. Lyndon Johnson, seeing a red glare over the horizon and half-way around the world, must have his war, though most of the people do not see eye to eye with him. Patriotism makes of us his zealous robots.

—J. F. McDaniels

Pacifist Singer Gets Two Years

Dear Editor:

Upon seeing your article on Bruce Phillips' memorial for Joe Hill and the article "Popular Wobblies at Draft Exam", I thought you'd be interested in knowing that Murphy P. Dowouis, a former worker with Ammon Hennacy at Joe Hill House in Salt Lake City, and a folksinger who has been singing Joe Hill and other IWW, labor, civil rights and peace and anti-draft songs for several years — and who worked at the Catholic Worker in New York City until his arrest on November 17 — was sentenced on January 12 at the Federal Court in New Orleans to serve two years in Seagoville, Texas Federal Prison.

The charge was failure to notify his Draft Board of a change of address (four counts).

The Board seemed to want to press this Draft Dodge charge instead of raising the issue that Murph refused induction twice. The government knew of his moves, since he was openly refusing the draft, not evading it.

Murph's reasons were religious and political. He is a pacifist and also sees that what makes wars is exploitation, imperialism and capitalist production for profit instead of producing for need.

One stanza of a song Murph wrote, after the manner of T-Bone Slim's "They Went Wild Over Me," goes like this:

"Oh the Draft Board went wild over me
When they found out we never could agree;
Boy they sure took it hard
When I sent them back my card,
They went wild, simply wild, over me."

Murph is from Raceland, Ia., and has been active in the civil rights struggle in the South. He also worked with the sugar cane cutters when they were on strike a while back.

There are many men in prison in the struggle to make all men free, and as Debs said, while there is a man in prison we cannot be free.

In Solidarity,
PAUL MANN

Albert Nelson Dies

Albert Nelson, born August 20, 1880 in Sweden, passed away at Yolo, California General Hospital January 23. Death came suddenly as the result of a stroke.

Fellow worker Albert Nelson came to the United States near the turn of the century. His IWW card, paid-up to July of this year shows he joined I.U. 310 in 1918. Since 1938 he was a member of I.U. 120. For the past 16 years he lived in retirement.

—Dan Mulder

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U.S. Soldiers Jailed

Three US soldiers have been sentenced to from two to ten years' hard labor in a military stockade for refusing to fight in Vietnam. A fourth soldier, who joined with the others in protesting against the war, was previously sentenced to six months in the stockade. All four are Negroes. In addition, a marine and sailor have been sentenced to five months and three months, respectively, for similar opposition to the war, while a second sailor, is awaiting sentence.

—from Peace News Nov. 26, '65

'GENTEEL ATMOSPHERE' NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR PAY

Teacher militancy in the well-healed suburban communities of Long Island is growing, much to the consternation of local school administrations. In only five years over 9,000 teachers have joined the American Federation of Teachers, approximately one-third of the total.

Where salaries are as much as \$500 less than in city schools, signs that more teachers are going to join are increasing. For too long suburban school systems have paid their teaching staff less in exchange for the "privilege of working in a better "atmosphere." Hopefully, at last, this is changing.

Last year more teachers joined unions and won demands, in most cases with student support on picket lines, than in any preceding year.

DESCRIBING BIG BROTHER

A Chicago social worker had this to say about Shriver, the War on Poverty chief: "Again he has exhibited the Southern plantation mentality. First he decided that the field hands needed some shacks. Then he says he'll build the kind of shacks he thinks we ought to have."

BOOK REVIEW

DETAIL ADDED TO IWW HISTORY

THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD, 1905-1917, History of the Labor Movement in the United States, Vol. 4, by Philip S. Foner, International Publishers, 1965; 608 pages including index, \$8.50 clothbound.

* * *

THE CASE OF JOE HILL, by Philip S. Foner, International Publishers, 1965, 127 pages \$3.50 clothbound.

* * *

THE LETTERS OF JOE HILL, compiled and edited by Philip S. Foner, Oak Publications, 1965, 96 pages, illustrated, paperbound \$1.95.

(All are available through Solidarity Bookshop, 1947 N. Larabee, Chicago.)

* * *

These three publications constitute one work. The "Case of Joe Hill" is an enlargement of a chapter missing from this 4th volume of Foner's History of the Labor Movement, and the "Letters" a supplement to the Case." They include some data not previously published and they bring together and make readily available other material that has not been easy to dig out.

The "Letters" booklet includes some rare and relevant illustrations, one of Joe as a lad of 19. One illustration, the Universal Label of the IWW, standing all by itself centered on the page facing the Introduction, may mislead some into thinking that this is an IWW publication.

The "Case" is an examination of whatever is available of the incomplete court records and of contemporary accounts. It confirms what the IWW has been saying these many years without this extensive research.

Much the same could be said of the 600-page history of the IWW's early years. There is extensive new evidence introduced, but the conclusions are those reached long ago.

Extensive research has been made in the commercial press of the localities where IWW strikes have occurred. This has added much detail to accounts of the strikes at McKees Rocks, or in the lumber industry of Gray's Harbor, or the hopfields near Marysville, California, or the activities among the unemployed of Edmonton or New York in 1914. But did we trust those accounts?

The correspondence of Samuel Gompers and the files of the AFL have been explored. The letters introduced show that the Executive Council was quite concerned with ways to damage the IWW and alarmed at expressions of local solidarity. Letters between government officials, the files used effectively by William Preston in his study of repression, "Aliens and Dissenters," add their light.

All this from the opposition provides a continuous and intriguing counterpoint running through the record. The government files in the Chicago indictment make available some letters between members of the IWW, also used in this reconstruction. Extensive use has also been made of published and unpublished university theses and of scholarly monographs that have appeared in academic journals, and of contemporary accounts in the labor press.

In its account of the Haywood-Moyer-Pettibone case, this history quotes extensively from McParland's report to the Governor of Idaho, on how he got Orchard to tell the story that he did. This material from the files of the Idaho Historical Society is here put in a book evidently for the first time.

It incidentally indicates how McParland proceeded in the Molly Maguire frameup. In the same connection this book quotes Teddy Roosevelt's correspondence to show during this trial he knew that the Pinkertons had their man on the defense committee, helping select jurors, and kept silent about it. (Somehow no reference is made to Schienberg's disclosure of this in 1960 in Idaho Yesterdays.)

The work is a large canvas with much new detail. Whether it is a good likeness is largely a question of proportion. The booklet of Letters gives a clear example of what proportioning can do. Since Hill's letters to Elizabeth Gurley Flynn were preserved and are all used here, and almost no example of personal correspondence outside of this remains it automatically gives proportions to her inconsistent with the fact that they met but the once when she visited him in jail.

It seems disproportionate to give 20 pages to the inconsequential issue of "boring from within," and no mention in a history of the IWW from 1905 to 1917 of the strikes that do illustrate IWW relations toward other unions, as the Baltimore garment strike of 1916, or the earlier one at Baldwin Locomotives, or at the meat packing plants and the tobacco industries of Pittsburgh. There is much questioning of IWW lack of stability, but no account of IWW work on Philadelphia docks, except for a couple of passing references, that stable unionism for a dozen years or so was achieved there. No account is given of the growth of the Marine Transport Workers. No mention is made of the interesting negotiations at Solvay Process, or such diverse union activities as those among the housemaids of Denver in 1916 or the coal miners at Old Forge. Somehow the book seems rather a history to 1914 with chapters added on AWO, Mesabi Range and Everett.

Frequently Dr. Foner misses

the point of the material he amasses. DeLeon's argument for a seat in the 1908 convention (page 109) as to "correct structure" is misinterpreted here as though it related to politics, when instead DeLeon's argument there was that workers should organize according to the tool used, and with such units build industrial unionism. In the same section the point why a GEB session was held November 1907 is altogether missed. One reading this book would never expect that the IWW reached its maximum strength in 1923, and has done some very worthwhile things despite reduced forces since.

In each of the three books the same mistake occurs as to why Joe Hill wrote Casey Jones. Casey wasn't an individual scab, scabbing on his fellow engineers. The song is an argument for industrial structure born out of a long strike of railroad shopmen in which the engineers, and others engaged in the movement of trains, kept on working. This misconception is so common that I have asked the editor please to find room for a piece setting the facts about Casey straight.

As will happen in books, there are some plain misstatements — the Lawrence strikers in 1912 (page 322) surely didn't sing Solidarity Forever when it wasn't written until 1915, and isn't the reference, page 331, to tear gas in that strike also a bit premature?

In spots the job delegate system launched by AWO in 1915 seems to be confused with an earlier system whereby a camp delegate could enroll a fellow worker into the local whose secretary delegated him to do so. But the book is a good job on the whole, indicating much hard work — only why aren't such manuscripts shown to some old Wobbly before they are rushed to the printer?

—Fred Thompson

What Do We Aim To Do?

If you want to know what we aim to do, the fullest answer is given in the 128-page book by Justus Ebert:

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BUSY PEOPLE

In December overtime rose to a new national average of 4 hours for factory workers to make their week 41.7 hours. The average hourly earnings were \$2.66. The number at work was estimated at a new high of 62,563,000.

Report Job Security For Lumber Workers; But in Another Land

Bill Hawkes of the International Woodworkers recently reported a visit to fellow forestry workers in Sweden in the Western Canadian Lumber Worker. He found that mechanization there is cutting down lumber union membership; and that in Sweden there can be no expansion of the industry, as the forests are being cut as fast as the sustained yield program permits.

Workers laid off because of mechanization are not worried. They know work is available in other industries and that they can collect full wages while retraining for new jobs. Hawkes says that forest workers actually earn more when retraining than when knocking down trees. Before the displaced lumber worker makes a move, he and his wife are taken at government expense to see the new location and industry.

One job condition Hawkes found, and of which he heartily approved, was the union requirement for heated cabins in which to eat lunch. These cabins must be within a thousand feet of one's work. Workers are also paid travel time to and from work.

Striking Professors Hit Bedrock

There is a strike at St. John's University near New York, the first strike of college professors on record. They are members of the American Association of University Professors and they are on strike because 31 of them were fired without any cause being given in December.

St. John's is a Catholic University. Evidence that the dispute is one of labor relations and not a question of beliefs comes from the DePaul University Chapter of the Association which has protested the arbitrary dismissal and urged reinstatement.

Father O'Reilly, speaking for his striking fellow professors, expresses a fundamental disagreement with those who fired the 31. He says:

"We, the faculty and students, are the university. It is perfectly true that the board of trustees has been granted a charter, but no nine men sitting around a table is a university. We have allowed a small group of men to take over our rightful role. We are not just passersby who step into the university for a while. We have rights. We should be determining what sort of a place this is."

The professor is getting down to fundamentals that may be applied someday by workers asking what industry is and who should determine what goes on in it.

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WHY JOE HILL WROTE HIS 'CASEY JONES'

Joe Hill's parody on 'Casey Jones' was born in San Pedro out of the Harriman System shopmen's strike. It started at 16:00 a.m. on Sept. 30, 1911 on two of the three railroads serving Los Angeles. It was part of a strike of 35,000 shopmen on the Illinois Central and the Harriman-owned lines that extended from Chicago to the Gulf and through the southwest to the Pacific. In California these included the Southern Pacific, the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake, the Union Pacific, the Central Pacific, the Arizona & Eastern and the Oregon & California lines.

The nine craft unions organizing these shopmen had met in Salt Lake City, June 5, 1911 and had formed a System Federation. On July 1 all nine had presented the same 16 demands. The first was for recognition of the System Federation on the Harriman as collective bargaining agent for all nine crafts. They asked that all be paid by the hour and that all get a 7-cent boost.

On July 22 the Harriman management turned down all demands and said it would bargain with these unions only one at a time. On a dozen other systems a shop craft federation had already been recognized.

Management was out to kill this practice before it developed further. Julius Kruschnitt announced that "he would risk a strike on the Harriman lines rather than deal with a System Federation." Since it provided only for joint bargaining by 9 of the 26 crafts in which the railroad industry was dismembered, and included none of those engaged in the movement of trains, it fell far short of industrial unionism; but as Solidarity editorialized on October 14, "The system federation becomes the embodiment of a higher form of union and therefore a potential if not actual menace to the employing class."

The strike had been postponed to Sept. 30 in the hope it might be avoided. Management had prepared for it while top union officers did what they could to prevent this rank-and-file move towards industrial solidarity.

The Perrys in their "History of the Los Angeles Labor Movement, 1911-1941" give considerable detail of how the strike affected that city. Prior to the Salt Lake conference, 400 of the shopmen, about a quarter of the local force, had been laid off, and it was felt that this was intended to discourage the federation idea. Through September high fences and stockades rose around Harriman property; cars and cabooses were fitted with bunks for scabs; big arc lamps were installed to light the yards at night. Arrangements were announced to farm out repair work to the AT&SF, a third line not struck.

Meanwhile the Executive Coun-

cil of the Machinists refused to sanction the strike; they were overruled by the Machinist Convention Sept. 26, only four days before the postponed deadline. A cartoon in the Los Angeles Times showed a lone shopman standing on the track holding a wooden club while a mighty locomotive bore down on him.

Midmorning, September 30, in San Pedro the whole crew of 300 walked out from the shops. In Los Angeles a thousand out of 1,400 struck. The Railroad Clerks had gone out August 25 and were still out. All paraded to the Labor Temple and were addressed by labor leaders and the Socialist candidate for mayor whose name also happened to be Harriman.

The labor movement of Los Angeles was very much alive at the time. Jim McNamara was on trial charged with blowing up the Times Building, and Darrow was defending him in a case that had rallied world labor to his support. It was felt that Job Harriman had a chance to win; in the big Labor Day parade over two thirds of the marchers had worn his button.

But the trains kept moving, run by union crews that made minor repairs. In the Salt Lake line shops in Los Angeles 350 scabs boasted of their first class mess hall, their barber shop, and the comforts of life behind the stockades. A dollar a day strike relief was costing the unions close to a million a month.

The San Francisco IWW local put out a sticker:

**"Railroad Men
No Scab So Despicable
as a Union Scab.
Tie Up the Road
Use IWW Tactics.
Solidarity Wins."**

Solidarity of October 14 carried these lines front and center and urged locals in the strike area to print their own. The strike was being defeated not so much by the scabs as by the system of separate craft agreements. It was probably in this strike that the story rose about a railroad engineer coming into a division point restaurant and getting indignant with the waitress for serving scab shopmen; she looked him straight in the eye and asked "Who brought them here?" Solidarity suggested some take "vacations."

In mid-October, according to the Perrys, "morale of strikers was bolstered by the ill-founded rumor that a thousand members of Los Angeles lodges of conductors, trainmen, engineers, firemen & telegraphers would strike November 2."

The rumor was quickly denied, and at no time during its four year duration did any operating union join the strike.

Instead with November come the McNamara confession. Jim was trapped with the unkept promise that if he confessed to some-

thing he had not done (blowing up the Los Angeles Times building with the consequent death of those working there) the authorities would free his fellow workers charged with blowing up bridges built by American Bridge scabs, systematically done without loss of life. This confession was made on the eve of the election and labor militancy collapsed deflated.

It was at this time that a little known Swede longshoreman in San Pedro wrote a parody on a current song hit to ridicule how one set of railroad workers was used to defeat the strike of their fellow workers. The song clicked. It was picked up and circulated by vaudeville teams. It was printed on cards and sold for strike benefits. It was sung by strikers and workers across the country. It brought to light a talent that in a few months was to provide America with its best loved working class songs, and its satire stiffened backbones in the struggle for industrial solidarity.

Joe Hill called his song "Casey Jones the Union Scab." It parodied one of the top ten tunes of the day, the most popular of all railroad songs, a ballad that had made the engineer Casey Jones a folk hero at a time when the dream of every ambitious boy was to become a locomotive engineer with president of USA as a pale third choice. In October 1911 "Casey Jones" meant, not an individual, but the men who move the trains.

The original Casey Jones (whose history is much better known now than it was in 1911) was certainly no scab. He was John Luther Jones, one of a family of railroaders. After he settled in Cayce, Ky., he took the name of the town as his distinctive nickname. In 1900 he was given a prize passenger run on the New Orleans Cannonball Express from Memphis, Tenn. to Canton, Miss. On April 29 as he completed a Double S bend approaching Vaughn, he saw the caboose of a sidetracked freight projecting onto the main line. (While it was being put "in the slot" an air hose had broken.) Casey told his fireman to jump while he stuck to his cab using his whole force to apply the emergency brakes; his was the only life lost in the trainwreck.

Wallace Saunders, a Negro hostler who took care of Casey's engine in the Canton roundhouse, made up a song about the wreck and Casey's heroic trip to the Promised Land. It was soon reworked by vaudeville performers, published in a new version as sheet music in 1902 with the title "Casey Jones the Brave Engineer."

A later version by Newton and Siebert, patterned after Steamboat Bill, was copyrighted in 1909 and was the one well known in 1911. Its elliptical wheel rhythm

made it a favorite song-and-dance number in that song-and-dance age. This version appears in many collections, Boni's Fireside Book of Folksongs for one. In it the wreck was head-on and on a run from Reno to Frisco; it wound up with the widow promising the orphans she would get them "a new papa on the Salt Lake Line."

(On April 29, 1950 a commemorative 3-cent stamp was issued with a picture of Casey Jones and the sort of locomotive he used to the left, with a 1950 locomotive to the right. Across the top ran the words "Honoring the Railroad Engineers of America." This was occasion for several accounts of the Casey Jones story, one of the more complete being that given by Freeman Hubbard in American Mercury for January 1950.)

The Swede longshoreman watched the industrial folk hero, the aristocrat of labor, work double time to break a strike, and wrote his satire on craft separatism. "His boiler it was leaking" — and the Perrys dig up from the annual report of the chief inspector of locomotive boilers for the period July 1, 1911 to June 30, 1912 the fact that there were 43 deaths from boiler explosions, 32 of them on the Southern Pacific.

This strike is usually written off as "lost" but the basic issue was not lost.

Even though the railroad industry is still dismembered by 26 craft unions, the right for them to bargain in concert has not been denied since the roads incurred the cost of breaking this four year strike. It actually dragged on to within a few months of Joe Hill's execution. It gave rise to a murder trial that drew as much attention as Hill's own case.

Carl E. Person of the Machinists held the strike together with his Clinton, Iowa Strike Bulletin. While out on bond on a charge of defaming the Illinois Central, he was lured into a meeting with the former chief of police of Clinton, by this time head scab herd. There Person was beaten and in self defense shot the chief thug. The labor movement rallied to his defense, and he lived to write a book about the strike, "The Lizard's Trail."

(Another source for material on this strike is pages 9699 to 10066 of Vol. X of Industrial Relations Commission Report, Doc. 415, 64th Congress, 1st Session.)

Foreigners

The officials of Apache County, Arizona, which includes a large part of the Navajo reservation, and in which the Indians far outnumber the whites, are refusing to register many of the Navajo Indians as voters on the grounds that they are unable to speak a foreign language, English.

—Indian Voice

**Join the army of the toilers.
For more porkchops and a better
world. Join the IWW.**

Musings of A Wobbly

Hurrah for Walter Reuther! At last he has shown his true colors! Till now we had taken him for a common, run of the mill labor faker, despite his professions of being a "socialist," but, as death comes to all living organs, so Fascism comes at long last to all Statists: Republicans, Democrats, Socialists, Communists or what have you. (They all hold: There must be a law, they all say, to protect us from something or other.)

And now mister Reuther has committed the cardinal sin of proposing to sell out the working class by means of forbidding certain kinds of workers to strike.

Mr. Reuther is terribly moved by the "suffering" caused "the public" due to the Transport Workers' strike in New York recently. His heart bleeds. Crocodile tears are streaming down his face, and one becomes downright melancholy beholding him in his distress, even from as far away as we are here in California.

Mr. Reuther, for lo! these many years has been playing ball with the Moguls of Motors than whom there are no greater admirers of the Fascist doctrine on all this green earth. "Waltha" has delivered wage slaves to them by the hundreds of thousands, and in the course of time he has become a part of them, like hands to a human being. And this close association — this continual shoulder brushing — has finally contaminated him so that he mouthes Fascist doctrine without being conscious of it.

"Death must come to all living things," we said, and that's true enough, but certain things take a long time dying. Consider phraseology. The "art" of saying things in a striking way, as for instance: Capital, Labor and the Public, first used by a chap called Woodrow Wilson, who used and abused it during his reign of terror 1912-1920, and now suddenly revived by Worry Wart Walter. Forsooth.

The implications are alarming since the errand boy for the Motor-moguls has received quite an echo to his phrase from the politicians who are always bent on serving the masters who put them where they are — with very few honorable exceptions — and who never fail to propose laws "to keep labor in its place," and who, of course, like nothing better than having an ally within the ranks of "labor" who can say the things they want to say — only better — and with more authority. A traitor within is always more dangerous than an enemy without.

Of course, Mr. Reuther will hotly deny that he is a Fascist. Fascism at one time was a very dirty word. The creature who founded it — a "socialist" became guilty of many crimes against the working class.

His name became anathema in all radical circles. But in the capitalist world he had many followers and supporters. His "Corporate State" was indeed something the cartels had long hoped for. They provided their Man Friday with a balcony from which to stick out his chin and talk down to the multitudes.

He got the backing of the Roman Papa who gave him his blessings when he sallied forth to crush the "godless" Spanish revolutionists, and when he reached out into Africa to conquer Ethiopia. A shudder went over the civilized world when he threw jellied gasoline (napalm) from the air on the heads of hapless natives to convince them that he was boss. His boast was that the Mediterranean was now an Italian lake.

But time ran out on him, and he became a victim of his own ruthlessness: He wound up hanging upside down from a lamp post, his body riddled with lead. His name was Mussolini.

Can all this be repeated? Here in these Benighted States? Well, let's hope not, but hoping is not enough, since we are on the brink to an alarming extent, and it will require hardly any push at all to shove us down the abyss.

The Musso declared the Mediterranean sea his lake. Long since the masters of these states have thought of the world as their oyster. Their military bases are all over the globe. Instead of Ethiopia they have their Viet Nam where they indulge in throwing all kinds of explosives on hapless natives, including jellied gasoline (napalm).

They have sent a Jewish lad to Rome to see the Roman papa, and he returned saying "we" have the blessings of the "Holy" Father. . . So things are getting mighty close. There is not a peep from "labah" against the ominous trend of events (there hasn't been for a long, long time) and now comes little boy Waltah with his "there otto be a law" against strikes.

Of course, not against "all" strikes, just against those that hurt the capitalists the most, and just for the time being. Later on we can include others. What's good for the goose will be good for the gander. The slogan will be: Strikes hurt the working man most. Why not settle everything by "arbitration?" Sure: The lion's share to the capitalists and the crumbs to us workers. That, of course, has been the rule till now, but nobody has dared to say to make it legal. That is, within the ranks of labor. It remained for a socialist of the stripe of Reuther to come out with it first.

"Capital, labor and the public" is a nonesensical phrase. We want to defy anyone to give us a definition of the word: Public. We will graciously withhold our own.

DETERMINED SPANISH LABOR STILL POISED FOR STRUGGLE

There is speculation in labor circles as to what will happen to the union labor movement in Spain when the Franco dictatorship finally crumbles. That the collapse of the present fascist regime is imminent is assumed by many observers, both in and outside labor ranks.

The genuine labor union movement — as opposed to the official, state-sponsored unions — has maintained itself mainly through two traditional national centers of labor activity: The Syndicalist National Confederation (CNT) and the General Union of Workers (UGT), both illegal and operating underground.

In 1960, these two organizations created the Trade Union Alliance (ASO), which was joined at the founding by the Basque national center, a Catholic anti-fascist group called STV.

For reasons easily understood, the Alliance has not spread rapidly. Illegal in Spain, coordination with supporters outside the country has been difficult. Its main base has been and remains in the Asturias where a long tradition of joint struggle exists in the CNT and UGT. In the Basque country, likewise, the ASO as maintained a solid fighting front despite great difficulties.

During the big strikes of the recent past, the joint illegal union opposition spread to Madrid, where it found lodgement chiefly in the Metal Workers Federation.

Madrid in the past few years has become one of the major industrial centers of Spain and its new proletariat has already given proof of substantial industrial importance and class conscious purpose.

In addition to these fighting groups, the Communists are numbered among those present in an organization known as the Trade Union Opposition (OSO). And there is, besides, the Catholic Workers' Youth. All these organizations and perhaps some others, are in opposition to the falangist unions, the officially recognized organizations of labor.

It can be foreseen that when the political dictatorship disintegrates there will be a scramble for power — for control not only of the present militant union groups, but also for the property,

Presumably it is something composed of individuals. Labor is a noun and so is capital. The three, used together in any rotation, become meaningless.

In our book there are workers and parasites. None other. Workers are those who produce the world's wealth (capital) and parasites are those who exploit workers, directly and indirectly.

The Reuthers and their ilk are among the most dangerous among parasites. They pose as "friends" and "leaders" of workers, while selling them down the river, mostly covert, sometimes overt. The attempt by Reuther to outlaw strikes is an overt act of treason against workers and must be strenuously opposed.

—ENNESS ELLAE

position, and vested interests of the present state-controlled labor organizations. Though these have been and are tools of the reactionary power, Spanish labor as a whole has the only valid claim on the physical property of this organization; its buildings, equipment and treasures.

During the past 25 years the capitalist interests of Spain have consolidated and extended their powers. Moreover, they have the backing of international capital and, very likely, will be able to draw support, if needed, from outside governments.

In view of this, it is hardly to be expected that in kicking out Franco the Spanish people will at the same time be able to bring to living reality the higher ideals of the revolutionary labor movement.

But the world need not be surprised if during the next, and soon to come political upheaval in Spain, the producing class there demands and takes over more control over industry than enjoyed by workers anywhere.

Spanish workers showed their metal in the 1930s. They have continued to give proof of courage and determination that will never surrender.

EXILED CNT GROUP PROTESTS UNION MERGER IN SPAIN

FREEDOM (London) of November 27 publishes a letter from the Relations Commission of the Nucleus of the CNT Exiled in Great Britain which condemns the signing of a pact by "a group of men who belonged to the CNT" providing for a consolidated Spanish union.

"The new union would replace 24 official trade unions and all Spanish workers would have to belong to it. The agreement declares workers' right to strike," FREEDOM states. The Anarchist journal states further that the agreement has been signed in Madrid by officials of state unions and former leaders of the illegal anarchist National Confederation of Labor (CNT).

The statement of CNT exiles in Britain says in part:

"We are pleased that our comrades in Spain have reacted against that disgraceful, premeditated and criminal maneuver, which will be equally denounced by every worker who is a victim of the abominable regime which tyrannizes them."

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POETS HAVE MESSAGE FOR NOW

Before The Battle, by John Allschwang 75¢; The Renaissance Bookshop, Milwaukee, Wis. 53203.

Everybody Knows My Name, 50¢; also Pocket Gopher and other poems from the gopher state, 50¢, both by Garry De Young; Published by the author, Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633.

Among today's many struggling poets here and abroad there are many with a social message. This does not make our particular epoch unique, as socially conscious poets are to be found in every period of Man's history.

That this bit of information may not be known by overwhelming numbers of our population can be because not only socially conscious poets but poets in general are seldom given access to the media of mass communication.

What is no doubt a contributing factor to the high degree of social conscience among poets, as contrasted to practitioners of other arts, is the fact that throughout history, poets able to make a living from writing poetry alone can be counted on the fingers of one hand, leaving fingers to spare.

Not having the opportunity of patronage nor any patrons to offend, it is easy to see why a poet would not be inclined to think of himself as having a stake in any established order.

Since even the now well known poets did not gain recognition until long after they had first put out their own publications, poetry can be rightfully called a labour of love. Furthermore, when a writer digs into his own jeans to put out a book, no matter how modest in size, and feels lucky when breaking even, he invariably has something to say and wants to say it real bad.

Such is the case with the two poets whose works are reviewed here, a World War II veteran who works in a book shop and an unemployed teacher who makes ends meet by driving a cab in a Northwoods town. Though there is difference in style between these two men, both have in common the desire to see something better come of the world they live in.

"Before The Battle" is a collection of poems and some prose written by John Allschwang during his service in the army overseas.

It is a small softcover booklet, less than fifteen pages, consisting of only eight poems and three short prose pieces, but the 75¢ asked for it makes it a real bargain inasmuch as this modest tome has more to offer than many books ten times its price or a hundred times its size.

The first thing that sets this book apart from others is the initial impact upon reading the first stanza of the first poem:

"On a distant island
Of some coral rock,

In a shallow foxhole,
I found a hand, a leg and
a sock. . . ."

These are the poems written by a man who has lived through the heat of battle. Many of them were scribbled in a foxhole or some hasty retreat during lulls in the shooting when there was no assurance of seeing the next day.

Twenty years later the author after resisting many temptations to rewrite and polish up his on-the-spot scribblings, decided to publish them the way they were originally written. It was a wise decision on his part for now we have here, not only good poetry, but a document of what it means to be a soldier in the battlefield, to a nameless pawn whose existence is but a minute item of strategic importance to those in military staff headquarters or in some distant governmental palace.

Here are recorded the feelings that go through the mind of an infantryman whose only stake in military strategy is "when will it end." Not knowing if the decomposed bits of corpse next to you belonged to an enemy or one of your own buddies and not really caring. Thoughts on two men who were segregated because of skin color back home who now share a temporary common grave, thoughts of the homesick soldier doing guard duty on a lonely island on Christmas Eve; the anxiety of a soldier at mail call, and the realization that you have killed other men. It tells of the gradual acceptance of death by the man in the battlefield, as in this verse:

"First you step over it
lightly;
You almost tip your
helmet. . . .
You look back in reverence
at a life snuffed out;
Then you jump over it without
looking back.
Later you kick it out of the
way
As you crawl in the blood
and mud. . . ."

This is not pretty nor is it meant to be pretty. Though the poems and prose pieces herein contained are to be classed with the best of literature, the obvious message of their content far outweighs any artistic restrictions on the part of self appointed literary academicians.

This book conveys in no uncertain terms what the glories of war are to the ordinary soldier regardless of the merit of whatever "cause" he is fighting for. It would be a good thing if these poems were shoved into the faces of our apathetic fellow citizens who, taking the path of least resistance, feel that our elected "representatives" know what they are doing.

Garry De Young, also a veteran of that same war, has been until recently, a school teacher along with his wife in Delaware. Be-

cause he brought suit against a law in that state requiring daily prayers in public school classrooms, he incurred the wrath of those in power so that neither he nor his wife have been able to secure jobs in their chosen profession since.

He migrated to his present home in the Northwoods of Minnesota and found opportunities for teaching closed to him, again due to the apparent influence of religious bigots. When he recently swapped his set of encyclopedias for an old car so he could take a run around the country to find an opening, he met with no better success. Being a long time friend of courageous Madalyn Murray, he also has felt the backlash of those who are opposed to secularization in public life.

To fight off the economic squeeze that a man with a wife and eight kids would have, he has been taking odd jobs such as driving taxi in a nearby resort town where the nightly take is nothing to brag about.

Despite this he manages to keep up his good humor and continue to write his poetry and operate a mail order service for atheist and free-thought literature as well. The poetry in *Everybody Knows My Name* ranges from humorous nostalgia of childhood to biting satire and criticism of present day institutions.

It is all easy-reading stuff and leaves no question in the reader's mind as to what he wants to say. He writes about every day things such as delivering eggs as a little boy, fishing his small daughter's comb out of the toilet bowl, planting cabbages, or adjusting a hose clamp on his Oldsmobile. But he also writes verse of obvious protest such as the lines from a poem to Tom Paine:

"I'll tell you Tom we're at
it still
the poor still get the bitter
pill
and scorn is cast upon that
bill. . . ."

With each of the poems in this book there is a brief introduction which, while this reviewer does not usually feel any need for introductions to poems, in this case are a definite enhancement to the book. As is to be expected, his favorite targets are the vestiges of superstition that still endure in this "enlightened" age which is one of the reasons why "America's Cavalier Poet" has found himself on the economic blacklist as the poem "Fetid Fetish" illustrates:

"Passion pagent teen age school
filled with Bible lust
Objective study is the rule
when scanning shifting dust
Yet Noah's Ark provides the fool
with legends he can trust."

His other and shorter book, *Pocket Gopher* is a children's book, though I might add, it's a book of verse for children of all ages. They are simple whimsical

poems, not without depth of thought, attractively arranged with illustrations by his wife.

This little book is mentioned not only because of the fact that you might well use a buck and get both of his books, but because if the reader is looking for literature for children that is free of the chauvinistic pap that permeates the bulk of "children's literature" today but promotes a healthy respect for life, one could certainly do worse than get it for some tyke. Though the author claims this is an "innocuous" book, he nevertheless has these lines in the opening poem:

"To give you cheer, to hold you
dear
to make you smile and grin
So you may grow and face the
fear
and still stick out your chin. . . ."

—CARLOS CORTEZ

Stockpiles Could Be Labor Menace

Recently the government used stockpiles of copper and aluminum as a club to prevent a rise in price of these metals. There was wide spread commendation of this action.

But what about strikes? They usually become effective only by curtailing the supply and thus creating a situation that warrants sales from government stockpiles.

Copper in particular is a metal that goes onto a world market, and a shortage is a world shortage; is a world supply. Even if one government felt it must not release its stockpile to break a strike, another government in another country, could enhance the supply from its stockpile.

Back in November 1959, when the Mine-Mill strike had just ended against Kennecott and Phelps-Dodge, the Industrial Worker noted:

"The government has stored 135,000 tons of copper in its stockpile and unionists mindful of how the British Tories started releasing stocks toward the end of the big African copper strike last winter, have viewed with alarm the efforts of copper users to get the government to release copper from its stock. The government has explained however that it is contrary to policy to release from stockpile when a strike is on in the industry that produces the specific material."

But it is risky . . . and precedents are precedents.

The Labor of the Poor

"For if one had a hundred thousand acres of land and as many pounds in money, and as many cattle, without a laborer, what would the rich man be but a labourer? And as the labourers make men rich, so the more labourers, there will be the more rich men . . . the labour of the poor being the gold mines of the rich." — John Ballers (1696)

Rendered from the Plute Press

Maybe maintenance work at Bethlehem's new steel plant should not be farmed out to "outside contractors"; and certainly I am always glad to speak up in favor of an "unauthorized" strike anywhere. But this strike of United Steel Worker members at Burns Harbor (near Gary) where pickets demanded that maintenance jobs be left to the regular crews so these could work a sixth day at overtime, looks like a case of attempted work-hogging.

Even though Indians must of necessity be Hoosiers, that's no good reason for striking for overtime work. They should be demanding more men on the job.

It has been reported that there are 2.4 billion rats in Bombay, India. Rats in that country eat up one-fifth of the grain produced there. "Give us rats in the U.S.," says a columnist, "to consume our surpluses."

There are 90,000 millionaires in the U.S., in 1948 there were 13,000 — a seven-fold increase. We have also a war-bent bureaucracy in charge of national affairs. Together they will take care of our surpluses. Who needs rats?

In the year ended last June, Department of Labor found and reported 18,605 children illegally employed. A Connecticut banana wholesaler was fined \$22,000 for hiring boys from 9 to 14 years old at wages ranging from a little bit to nothing but free bananas.

A Frankfort, Ky. court held that certain employers must pay 12 million dollars in minimum pay withheld from 20,000 minors and women. There are plenty of rats in the U.S. Few are caught. By and large, the traps are in charge of the rats.

In Detroit, unions collect old clothes for needy school kids. **Detroit Labor** says 8,000 children in that city depend on gifts of used clothing to go properly dressed to school.

Rev. Maurice F. McCrackin believes "Jail—No Bail" should be a slogan of civil rights fighters.

Russ labor made some sort of record last year: Shipyard workers at Sevastopol and other Black Sea ports struck for pay and conditions. Russian leaders try to keep up the fiction that striking by workers is unnecessary, improper and unpatriotic. It's about the same in the USA.

In Philadelphia, a man worked three years on a job before he discovered that he had been paying dues to a "union" of which he had never heard. Dues were checked off by the boss. The boss handled

all grievances. This man is now convinced the workers on his job need the IWW—a union that the dues-paying workers run and that the employer will certainly hear from.

Secretary of Labor Wirtz said: 98 out of every 100 married men available for work have jobs and that the general rate of unemployment in September was 4.4% of the work force in September. Unemployment among teenagers, he said, is 13%, about three times the general rate. Among non-white workers the rate of unemployment is twice as high as the national rate.

Out West, the laser beam is under study for possible use in cutting logs. Experimental cutting of timber with an extremely thin stream of water under very high pressure has been reported successful.

The laser beam (high energy light beam) has been used experimentally to cut graft scions from fruit trees instead of shooting them down.

A new vibrating saw which oscillates in an arc so short that it will not cut flesh has been devised for possible use in the cutting of lumber. There will be big changes in every branch of the forest products industry.

It's high time for all workers to get busy on the job of building new unions — unions capable of coping with modern problems.

Mike McQuirk

Rising Profit Boosts Cost of Living

As reported by the Federal Trade Commission, manufacturing profits of durable goods industries as a whole rose 22 per cent in the last quarter of 1965 above the same period in the preceding year. Producers of electrical machinery did well. Their profit gain was 25 per cent in the period considered.

Not bad, surely. But earnings of aircraft firms and furniture manufacturers were still better. Their profit gains were 34 and 41 per cent respectively, according to the Trade Commissions announcement.

This is revealing: While wages went up in the first three quarters of 1965, unit cost of production in October was down by two points, compared with the year before. That means it cost the boss less in wages to turn out a product, despite last year's trifling average 2.7 per cent boost in hourly wages.

Nevertheless, cost of living continues to rise. No one in his right mind can blame this on rising wages.

Sure, we can afford to feed the idlers in this nation, if that's our pleasure. We can't afford to let them run the country.

PENSION BUT NO HONORS FOR LABOR FAKER CAREY

When President Johnson somewhat brusquely turned down the AFL-CIO request that ex-president James Carey of the IUE (International Union of Electrical Workers) be given a soft government job, the rebuff occasioned hurt surprise and disappointment in the ranks of Big Union leadership.

Some interested politicians, concerned about the labor vote, may have felt the President could have been more diplomatic in rejecting recommendations by both George Meany and Walter Reuther that Carey be handed a Federal Government post and pie.

Other observers, less concerned with labor-politics relationship in the LBJ Washington corral facetiously hinted that Carey, with his experience in vote manipulation, was exactly what the Administration needed.

In his rejection of Carey, Johnson stated that to employ the deposed union president would reflect badly on "the Great Society administration." His position in this matter was consistent and pragmatic. There is never a need in politics to pay-off a helper for services rendered once he has made the mistake of getting caught in a disgraceful act. Moreover, in this instance it may be admitted Johnson acted in the interest of better government.

You may recall that last summer Jimmy Carey was booted out of the presidency of the IUE after a Department of Labor investigation revealed misconduct in the referendum vote that appeared to continue him in office. Carey has consistently denied any knowledge of the switching of votes that was found to have taken place.

Like full-time gangsters, Carey established an alibi by being out of town when the actual switching took place. He was confronted by George Meany who quizzed him about the election shortly after the Labor Department released its report.

Carey then stated that he knew nothing about the vote stealing. Whereupon Meany retorted: "Why didn't you know? Everyone else in Washington did."

However, anyone who steals votes and gets exposed isn't necessarily considered all bad by top union misleaders. Carey was pensioned off with \$12,500 a year, half of his former salary.

Why did Meany and Reuther both stick their necks out for Brother Carey? Known facts are that for over 17 years Carey was a stooge of Big Union leadership whose chief function seems to be to restrain rank and file union labor from striking.

While lock-stepping with the post-war anti-radical hysteria,

Philip Murry (that is, the CIO) created a dual union, the IUE, to combat the so-named "communist-dominated" United Electrical Workers (UE). At its birth, the IUE consisted of: one appointed president, Carey; a million dollar treasury provided by the CIO, and no union membership. From that time up to his unseating last summer, Carey remained president of the IUE.

President Johnson's actions in denying Carey a job are open to suspicion for they appear to display a mild degree of integrity, an ingredient not generally held necessary among politicians.

There were only two areas where Carey could have been placed — the Poverty Program or Civil Rights. The joke that traveled about Washington during the time between the Meany-Reuther request and its refusal by Johnson was: "Can you see Carey working for Civil Rights, fighting for 'One man, one vote'?"

It needs to be pointed out again and again that the top leadership of the standard U.S. unions is afflicted not only with corruption, but also with a strong disinclination to permit real union action by dues-paying rank and file union workers in industry.

The attempt to secure a government job for Carey was an effort to get him an additional pension as a reward for his 17 years of finking, for his consistent stand against union democracy and against aggressive union action. His only qualification was that he was anti-communist. His only talent was that he knew how to please the employers. He never was a representative of the workers.

What, then, must one think of Meany and Reuther, those shining lights of the AFL-CIO, who so generously fronted for Carey? — Powderly

Solidarity?

Charles Coughlin, First Assistant Grand Chief Engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, has disappointed the Railroad Firemen. In 1963 a Joint Board was appointed consisting of two negotiators from the railroads and one each from the Engineers and the Firemen to study the effect of removing firemen from diesel engines.

The 122-page report issued by the board says the firemen are not needed and no hazard is created by getting rid of them.

The Firemen refused to sign their death warrant. Brother Coughlin did sign, but says that having no firemen makes the engineers lonesome.